## FLAG PRESENTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY 7, 1996</th>
<th>MAY 21, 1996</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our flag, the Star Spangled Banner, is a sacred symbol, conveying the faith to which we Americans were born. Its composition is simple, striking and beautiful, its design unique; its colors arranged in contrast, richly harmonious. To us it is holy and precious, not by material or craft, but by its meaning. Old Glory, made by a woman, has been an inspiration to Americans, since the struggle for freedom by our forefathers. It expresses the past of our country, its present life and all of its future.</td>
<td>In reverence, let us raise our eyes to our cherished flag, looking upon it as our symbol of hope and security. It is a symbol, too, of what we aspire to, in this time of peace. As we look upon its beautiful, radiant colors, let us remember that many have consecrated their lives to defend this, our glorious flag, which stands for righteousness, honor and high ideals. May it wave forever, this flag we love!</td>
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### September 2, 1996

**THE FLAG SPEAKS**

I am whatever you make me—nothing more. But always I am all that you hope to be and have the courage to try for. I am song and fear, struggle and panic and ennobling hope. I am the day’s work of the weakest man, and the largest dream of the most daring. I am the Constitution and the Courts, Statutes and Statute Makers, Soldier and Dreadnaught, drayman and streetsweep, cook, counselor and clerk. I am no more than what you believe me to be. My stars and stripes are your dream and your labors. For you are the makers of the flag, and it is well that you glory in the making.

--- Franklin K. Lane

### September 13, 1996

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September 17, 1996

Friendship Night

“It’s Just a Piece of Cloth”

That is all it is—just a piece of cloth.

But when a little breeze comes along it stirs and comes to life, and flutters and snaps in the wind, all red and white and blue! And then you realize that no other piece of cloth could be like it!

It has your whole life wrapped up in it—the meals you eat; the time you spend with your family; the kind of things your boy and girl learn at school; the strange and wonderful thoughts you get in church on Sunday.

Those stars in it—they make you feel just as free as the stars in the wide, deep night. And those stripes—they are bars of blood to any dictator who would try to change this way of life.

Just a piece of cloth, that is all—until you put your soul into it, and give it a meaning. Then it is a symbol of liberty, and decency, and fair-dealing for everyone. It is just a piece of cloth until we breathe life into it; until we make it stand for everything we believe in, and refuse to live without it.

--From Sunshine Magazine

October 1, 1996

As Americans and members of a great Fraternal Order, we proudly pay homage to the Stars and Stripes, the beautiful banner of our nation, which waves in majestic silence over the land of the free and the home of the brave. This banner, since its inception, makes no distinction between race, creed, the rich or the poor and has ever stood for honor, freedom godliness, liberty and justice. Its unfurled presence, amid daily life, should be a constant reminder of our heritage and the sacrifice of our forefathers. This precious gift must be guarded with courage and willingness to follow leadership to the heights of success or the depths of despair. Too often we forget those who gave their lives, fortunes and sacred honor so that it will continue to endure and to wave in dignity throughout our nation and foreign lands. Let us be reminded, as members of our beautiful Order, we are privileged to meet in liberty and security to practice principles dedicated to -- Fidelity to American ideals; Constancy toward that which we believe to be right; Loyalty to our government; Faith in the doctrine of equality; and Love of Service to all mankind.
Woodrow Wilson said, “When I think of the flag...I see alternate strips of parchment upon which are written the rights of liberty and justice, and stripes of blood to vindicate those rights, and then, in the corner, a prediction of blue serene into which every nation may swim which stands for these great things....The lines of red are lines of blood, nobly and unselfishly shed by men who loved the liberty of their fellowmen more than they loved their own lives and fortunes. God forbid that we should have to use the blood of America to freshen the color of the flag. But if it should ever be necessary, that flag will be colored once more and in being colored will be glorified and purified.”

The Ragged Old Flag

I walked through a country courthouse square, And on a park bench, an old man was sitting there. I said, “Your courthouse is quite run down.”

He said, “Naw, it will do for our little town.”

I said, “Your flag pole leans a little bit, And that’s a ragged old flag you got hanging on it.”

He said, “Have a seat”, and I sat down. “Is this the first time you’ve been to our little town?”

I said, “I think it is.”

He said, “I don’t like to brag, But we’re kinda proud of that ‘ragged old flag’. You see, that flag there, Got a little hole in it when Washington took it across the Delaware. It got a powder burn the night that Francis Scott Key, Sat watching and writing “Oh, say, can you see’. It got a bad rip in New Orleans, From Packingham and Jackson tugging at it’s seams.

It almost fell at the Alamo, Along with the Texas flag, but she waved on alone. She got cut by sword at Chancellorville, And she got cut again on Shiloh Hill. There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard and Brag,
And the south wind blew hard on the 'ragged old flag',
On Flander's field in World War I,
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.
She turned 'blood red in World War II,
She hung limp and she hung low a time or two.
She was in Korea and Vietnam,
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.
She waves from our ships on the bring foam,
And now they've about quit waving her, back here at home.
In her own good land where she's been abused,
She's been burned, dishonored, denied, refused.
And the government for which she stands,
Is scandalized through the land.
And she's getting thread-bare and she's wearing thin,
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in.
Cause she's been through fire before,
And I believe she can take a whole lot more.
So we raise her up every morning,
And take her down every night,
We don't let her touch the ground,
And we fold her up right.
On second thought, I do like to brag,
Cause I'm might proud of that 'ragged old flag.'

November 19, 1996

Out on the breeze,
O'er land and seas,
A beautiful banner is streaming.
Shining its stars,
Splendid its bars,
Under the sunshine 'tis gleaming.
Hail to the flag,
The dear, bonny flag--
The flag that is red, white, and blue.

Over the brave
Long may it wave,
Peace to the world ever bringing,
While to the stars
Linked with the bars
Hearts will forever be singing;
Hail to the flag,
The dear, bonny flag--
The flag that is red, white, and blue.
December 3, 1996

Oh, folds of white and scarlet!
Oh, blue field with your silvery stars!
May fond eyes welcome you, willing feet follow you,
Strong arms defend you, warm hearts cherish you,
And the lips of the dying give you their blessing!

1/7/97

It is time that we reevaluate our loyalty to our beloved flag. It still symbolizes the grandest country God's Sun has ever shone upon. As it waves, let us remember the bloodstained fields. We need today and every day to hear again the tramp, tramp, tramp of our boys and men, the flower of youth going forth in battle to protect its sacred folds. We must guard with all our might and resources the truth that the sacred banner holds.

Let us guard Old Glory. Let us rededicate ourselves to the highest principles of American citizenship, and pledge again our allegiance to our beloved flag and this Nation under God.

1/21/97

Behold the gorgeous ensign of the Republic, now known and honored throughout the earth, still full high advanced, its arm and trophies streaming in their original luster, not a stripe erased or polluted, nor a single star obscured....It does not bear the motto 'Liberty first and Union afterwards,' but everywhere, spread all over in characters of living light, blazing on all its ample folds, as they float over the sea and over the land, and in every wind under the whole heavens, that other sentiment, dear to every true American heart--Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!

2/4/97

Tis a banner that is sacred
To the hearts of you and me.
It is known in every country,
It is known on every sea.
Men have followed it to victory,
And have died to shield its name,
It has never known dishonor,
Never known a breath of shame.

For its your flag and its my flag
And it means that all the world
Is looking to Old Glory
With her stars and stripes unfurled.
And throughout the coming ages
May our banner ever stand
As an emblem of true freedom,
In a great God-fearing land.
Flag Facts

Did you know:

For 23 years, there were 15 stripes on the American flag.
The red stripes on the flag symbolize England, and the white stripes represent America's separation from its mother country.
The American flag also is called The Star Spangled Banner; The Stars and Stripes; The Red, White and Blue; and Old Glory.
The American flag is older than the U.S. Constitution.
Francis Hopkinson, a delegate to the Continental Congress, designed the American flag—not Betsy Ross as most people learn.
Flag Day is the national holiday commemorating the adoption of the American flag.
Memorial Day is the only national holiday when the flag is flown at half-staff.
When new states join the union, stars are added to the flag on the following July 4.
The design of the American flag was standardized in 1912 by President William Howard Taft.
Source: Citizens Flag Alliance News USA

Oh! Thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the